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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0019] A stationary upper frame 25 is arranged above the lower frame 17 and just opposite thereto, and extends horizontally in the width direction of the rubber strip 12. A plurality of fluid cylinders 26 are attached to the upper frame 25, and spaced from each other in the width direction of the rubber strip 12 by an equal interval. These fluid cylinders 26 serve as means for moving the upper frame 25 in the vertical direction. Each fluid cylinder 26 has a piston rod 27 of which the free end is fixedly connected to a movable plate 28 that can be ~~mebbed~~ moved in parallel with the upper frame 25. The movable plate 28 has a bottom surface that supports an upper heating block 30 in parallel with the plate 28. The upper heating block 30 is provided with a heater 29 therein, and extends in parallel with the bottom surface of the movable plate 28.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0031] First of all, the supply conveyor 13 is displaced just in front of the delivery conveyor 14, with a rubber strip 12 placed thereon. Then, the two conveyors 13, 14 are operated synchronously with each other, thereby causing the rubber strip 12 to be transferred from the supply conveyor 13 to the delivery conveyor. The transfer of the rubber strip 12 is stopped when a predetermined cut position of the rubber strip 12 reaches just above the anvil groove 22. The supply conveyor 13 is then slightly displaced forward while being temporarily operated, thereby forming a festoon of the rubber strip 12 within a space between the press cutter/shaper 39 and the anvil 20 so that the festoon of the rubber strip 12 is placed onto the flat shaping surface 21 of the anvil 20. On this occasion, it is assumed that the predetermined position of the rubber strip 12 coincides with the anvil groove 22 as described above. It is further assumed that the anvil 20 and the press body 39 are heated by the heater

18, 29, respectively, so that the ~~anvil 20~~press body 39 is at a predetermined temperature slightly higher than that of the anvil 20.